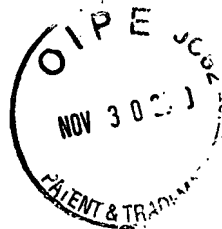


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PATENT
Atty. Docket No.: BSC-017CP
(1002/29)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Sixto et al.

SERIAL NUMBER: 09/359,335

GROUP NUMBER: 3739

FILING DATE: July 21, 1999

EXAMINER: R. Kearney

TITLE: ELECTROSURGICAL TISSUE REMOVAL WITH A
SELECTIVELY INSULATED ELECTRODE

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TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/ RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed from the Patent and Trademark Office on July 31, 2000, Applicants submit the following Response. A petition and fee for a three-month extension-of-time for response, up to and including November 30, 2000, is submitted herewith.

RESPONSE

Claims 1-21 were pending in the application. The Examiner has restricted these claims under 35 U.S.C. §121 into two claims groups: (I) claims 1-11, and (II) claims 12 – 21. Applicants hereby elect the claims of group I (i.e. claims 1-11), and request that the non-elected claims (i.e., claims 12-21) be cancelled without prejudice to further prosecution in a related application.

The Restriction/Election further indicates that Applicant must elect one of the following species: (I) Figures 1a and 1b; (II) Figure 2; (III) Figure 3; (IV) Figure 4a; (V) Figure 4b; (VI) Figure 4a and 10b; (VII) Figures 5b and 5c; (VIII) Figure 6; (IX) Figure 7a; (X) Figures 7b; (XI) Figures 8a and 8b; (XII) Figure 9a; (XIII) Figure 9b; and (XIV)